

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /068 W
-----041120 191416Z /46

O 191347Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1918
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: PODRABINEK ARREST, OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS
DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: ALEKSANDR PODRABINEK HAS BEEN ARRESTED UNDER ARTICLE 190 OF THE RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE. YOSIF BEGUN HAS BEEN ARRESTED UNDER ARTICLE 198, DEALING WITH PASSPORT REGISTRATION. V. PAPLAVSKIY WAS SENTENCED ON MAY 12 TO ONE YEAR IN LABOR CAMP. DESPITE PERSISTENT EFFORTS, MOSCOW HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HAVE NO RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THE TBILISI TRIAL OF GAMSAKHURDIA AND KOSTAVA. SIX APARTMENT SEARCHES RECENTLY WERE CONDUCTED IN THE MOSCOW AREA. MALVA LANDA WAS DETAINED REGARDING LEGALITY OF HER PRESENCE IN MOSCOW. SEVERAL ACTIVISTS WERE SENT ON TRIPS OUT OF MOSCOW JUST PRIOR TO OPENING OF ORLOV TRIAL. ALEKSANDR GINZBURG'S WIFE EXPECTS THAT HER HUSBAND'S TRIAL WILL COMMENCE IN JUNE. ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY'S MOTHER AND BROTHER HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT THE TIMING OF HIS TRIAL.
END SUMMARY.

1. CONVERSATIONS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS STANDING VIGIL AT THE ORLOV TRIAL MAY 15-18 PRODUCED A WEALTH OF
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INFORMATION, ALMOST ALL OF IT DISCOURAGING, REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION IS THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE PLANNED A NUMBER OF REPRESSIVE MEASURES TO COINCIDE WITH THE ORLOV TRIAL AND THEREFORE TO ATTRACT RELATIVELY LITTLE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION.

2. PODRABINEK ARREST. LEADER OF THE PSYCHIATRIC WATCH

COMMITTEE, ALEKSANDR PODRABINEK, WAS ARRESTED ON SUNDAY, MAY 14. ON MAY 15 THE INVESTIGATOR ASSIGNED TO THE CASE TOLD PODRABINEK'S FATHER THAT ALEKSANDR WAS BEING INVESTIGATED FOR HAVING VIOLATED ARTICLE 190 OF THE RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE. THE INVESTIGATOR SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED PODRABINEK'S BOOK, "PUNITIVE MEDICINE", AND INDICATED THAT THE CASE AGAINST ALEKSANDR WAS OPENED ON DECEMBER 28, 1977, THE DAY THAT HIS BROTHER KIRILL WAS ARRESTED.

3. BEGUN ARREST. JEWISH REFUSENIK YOSIF BEGUN WAS ARRESTED IN MOSCOW DURING THE EVENING OF MAY 17 FOR HAVING VIOLATED ARTICLE 198 OF THE RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE (DEALING WITH PASSPORTS AND RESIDENCE) ALLEGEDLY BY RESIDING UNLAWFULLY IN MOSCOW. BEGUN REPORTEDLY HAS BEGUN A HUNGER STRIKE IN PROTEST OF HIS ARREST.

4. WE ARE TOLD THAT ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE "FREE TRADE UNION", V. PAPLAVSKIY, WAS ON MAY 12 FOUND GUILTY OF VAGRANCY AND BEGGING (ARTICLE 209 OF THE RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE) BY A COURT IN PODOLSK, AND SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN A LABOR CAMP. WE UNDERSTAND PAPLAVSKIY HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH THIS "CRIME" IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR.

5. TBILISI TRIAL. UNTIL MAY 17 MOSCOW HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, INCLUDING SAKHAROV, HAD NO WORD FROM TBILISI REGARDING THE TRIAL OF GEORGIAN NATIONALISTS AND GEORGIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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CSCE MONITORING GROUP MEMBERS GAMZAKHURDIA AND KOSTAVA. SAKHAROV SAID IT HAD BECOME UNUSUALLY DIFFICULT TO PLACE LONG-DISTANCE CALLS FROM MOSCOW TO TBILISI. LATE MAY 16 REFUSENIK ISSAY GOLDSHTEIN, WHO LIVES IN TBILISI BUT WAS VISITING MOSCOW, SUCCESSFULLY TELEPHONED HIS WIFE IN TBILISI. SHE REPORTED THAT BOTH GAMZAKHURDIA'S WIFE AND KOSTAVA'S MOTHER HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO ATTEND THE LOCAL TRIAL BUT THUS FAR MRS. GAMZAKHURDIA HAD REFUSED, WITHOUT EXPLANATION, TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE PROCEEDINGS. AND MRS. GOLDSHTEIN HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM MRS. KOSTAVA. GAMZAKHURDIA'S FRIENDS IN MOSCOW CANNOT BELIEVE HE HAS PLED GUILTY, AS TASS ALLEGES, BUT THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS GOING ON AT THE TRIAL. (DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN TASS ITEM OF MAY 18 ASSERTING THAT GAMZAKHURDIA REPENTED AND IN PARTICULAR STATED TO THE COURT THAT "SOME" OF HIS FOREIGN CONTACTS WERE "EXTREMELY HOSTILE" TO THE USSR; AMONG THE "HOSTILES" HE REPORTEDLY LISTED FORMER EMBOFF BELOUOVITCH AND U.S. CORRESPONDENTS SHIPLER AND FRIENDLY).

6. APARTMENT SEARCHES. WE HAVE HEARD OF AT LEAST SIX APARTMENT SEARCHES WHICH OCCURRED ON THE EVE OF OR DURING

THE ORLOV TRIAL:

--ALEKSANDR PODRABINEK'S APARTMENT IN THE CITY OF ELEKTROSTAL WAS SEARCHED DURING THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 15, THE DAY AFTER PODRABINEK'S ARREST; PODRABINEK'S SISTER-IN-LAW WAS BROUGHT BY THE KGB FROM MOSCOW TO WITNESS THE EVENT;

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--A RELATED SEARCH WAS CONDUCTED AT THE MOSCOW APARTMENT OF A FRIEND OF PODRABINEK, GRIVININA, ON MAY 14;

--STILL ANOTHER RELATED SEARCH WAS CONDUCTED OF THE MOSCOW APARTMENT OF PODRABINEK'S CLOSE FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE IN THE PSYCHIATRIC WATCH COMMITTEE, VYACHESLAV BAKHMIN, ON MAY 15; BAKHMIN HIMSELF WAS SENT TO TALLINN ON TDY JUST BEFORE THE ORLOV TRIAL;

--OTHER APARTMENT SEARCHES TOOK PLACE ON MAY 14 AND 15 AT THE RESIDENCES OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS LOVUT, VELIKHANOVA, AND OSIPOVA.

7. MALVA LANDA. ORLOV GROUP MEMBER LANDA, WHO RETURNED LAST MONTH FROM SERVING A ONE-YEAR TERM OF EXILE IN SIBERIA, WAS PICKED UP FOR QUESTIONING AT A MOSCOW METRO STATION THE EVENING OF MAY 15. LANDA WAS AT THE ORLOV COURTHOUSE EARLIER THAT DAY, AND TOLD EMBOFF THAT SHE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN PERMISSION ("PROPISKA") TO RESIDE IN MOSCOW AND WAS STAYING WITH ANDREY TVERDOKHLEBOV NEAR THE TOWN OF BLADIMIR. LANDA WAS RELEASED AFTER

SEVERAL HOURS.

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8. GINZBURG CASE. ACCORDING TO GINZBURG'S WIFE ARINA, HIS PERIOD OF PRE-TRIAL DETENTION HAS BEEN EXTENDED FROM MAY 3 TO JUNE 3. SHE EXPECTS HIS TRIAL TO COMMENCE BY MID-JUNE, AND BELIEVES IT WILL BE HELD IN THE CITY OF KALUGA, WHERE HER HUSBAND IS IMPRISONED (AMONG OTHER THINGS, THIS COULD PRECLUDE THE PRESENCE AT THE GINZBURG TRIAL OF WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS AND DIPLOMATS, WHO WOULD HAVE TO FILE TRAVEL REQUESTS TO VISIT KALUGA, LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE MOSCOW OBLAST). MRS. GINZBURG SAID THAT HER HUSBAND PLANS TO MAKE HIS OWN DEFENSE STATEMENT, AS ORLOV DID, EVEN THOUGH HE IS NOW BEING ASSISTED BY A SOVIET ATTORNEY.

9. MRS. GINZBURG NOTED THAT TO HER GREAT SURPRISE, TELEPHONE SERVICE RECENTLY WAS RESTORED TO HER APARTMENT, AND SHE HAS EVEN RECEIVED CALLS FROM THE U.S. SHE SPECULATES THAT PERHAPS THE AUTHORITIES FOUND THIS WORTHWHILE FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW AS A CONVENIENT WAY OF MONITORING HER CONTACTS WITH THE SOLZHENITSYN FAMILY (SHE NOW ADMINISTERS THE "SOLZHENITSYN FUND") AND U.S. ATTORNEY WILLIAMS.

10. SHCHARANSKIY CASE. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SHCHARANSKIY'S BROTHER AND MOTHER THAT THEY HAVE GOTTEN NOWHERE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A DEFENSE ATTORNEY. AS EARLIER REPORTED, ON MARCH 16 THEY RECEIVED A NOTE, APPARENTLY WRITTEN BY SHCHARANSKIY, SAYING THAT HE EMPOWERED HIS MOTHER AND HIS WIFE TO SELECT AN ATTORNEY, THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT AN OFFICIALLY-APPOINTED ATTORNEY, AND IF NECESSARY HE WOULD DEFEND HIMSELF. HIS FAMILY LATER WAS TOLD THAT HE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DEFEND HIMSELF. THEY CONSIDER THIS OFFICIAL POSITION IMPROPER, AND ON MAY 11 SENT A TELEGRAM TO PROSECUTOR GENERAL RUDENKO REQUESTING THAT HE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCERN HIMSELF PERSONALLY WITH THE MATTER. TO DATE THEY HAVE RECEIVED NO REPLY.

11. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, SHCHARANSKIY'S BROTHER LEONID TOLD US OF A MAY 15 LECTURE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT THE MOSCOW FACTORY WHERE LEONID WORKS. LEONID WAS ABSENT FROM WORK ON THAT DAY--TO STAND VIGIL AT THE ORLOV TRIAL.

WHEN HE WENT TO WORK MAY 16 HIS FRIENDS TOLD HIM OF THE LECTURE, ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

--THE LECTURER, ONE MISHAK, WAS IDENTIFIED AS WORKING FOR THE MOSCOW CITY PARTY ORGANIZATION;

--MISHAK REPORTEDLY TOLD THE ASSEMBLED FACTORY WORKERS THAT ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY WAS A "REGULAR AGENT" (STATNIY AGENT) OF THE CIA;

--MISHAK CLAIMED SHCHARANSKIY HAD BEEN CAUGHT RED-HANDED, PASSING SECRET INFORMATION TO THE CIA;

--HE ALSO SAID SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT "WE HAVE POSTPONED SHCHARANSKIY'S TRIAL, BUT HE WILL BE PUT AWAY."

12. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT SAKHAROV SYMPATHIZER VIKTOR TOMACHINSKIY (WHOM EMBOFF MET FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE ORLOV TRIAL) STAGED A THREE-MAN DEMONSTRATION AT THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING IN MOSCOW MID-AFTERNOON MAY 18 TO PROTEST THE OUTCOME OF THE ORLOV TRIAL. TOMACHINCKIY AND HIS TWO COLLEAGUES WERE ARRESTED AND REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT BEFORE A MOSCOW CITY COURT MAY 19. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW11153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780211-0498
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780540/aaaabhp1.tel
Line Count: 247
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f23f8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2638576
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PODRABINEK ARREST, OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY: ALEKSANDR PODRABINEK HAS BEEN ARRESTED U
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR, (PODRABINEK, ALEKSANDR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f23f8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014